

7

H A C K N E Y,

MONDAY, 23d MARCH 1789.

THE REPORT of the COMMITTEE appointed at a Parish Meeting held in the Vestry Room on the 5th May 1788, to take into Consideration the present State of the Church of this Parish, and the best Method to be adopted for accommodating the Inhabitants to meet in Publick Worship.

YOUR Committee, in pursuance of the said reference, proceeded to take into consideration the State of the Church, the Rental of the Parish, and such other circumstances as might enable them to ascertain the best means to accomplish the same.

Your Committee first directed their attention to the state of the Church, and of the Parish, at former periods, to see what had been done to accommodate the increasing number of Inhabitants.

In the year 1756, when the number of houses was only 983, the Church was so inadequate to the size of the Parish, that a resolution was taken at a Parish Meeting, to have plans and estimates laid before them, for enlarging or rebuilding the Church; but the rental of the Parish not being at that time half what it is at present, and the necessity not so urgent, nothing further appears to have been done.

In the year 1779, the number of houses having increased to 1212, and the Church being consequently so much less adequate to the number of Inhabitants, the consideration of the business was again taken up, and referred to a Committee. A plan and estimate for rebuilding the body of the Church was ordered, and the Report of Mr. Jupp the Surveyor was, that it might be made to contain fourteen hundred and eighty persons, at an expense of five thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight pounds sixteen shillings, including the old materials. It appears to your Committee that the Parish Meeting were at that time strongly impressed with the necessity of rebuilding, but that, "in consideration of the then distressed situation of publick affairs," they came to a resolution, "That the going into so great an expense should be deferred till a more favourable opportunity."

Nothing further having been done from that time to provide accommodation for the still increasing number of Inhabitants, your Committee directed their inquiries to the present state of the Church; and caused a survey to be made by Mr. Blackburn, and a report of the numbers it will now contain, the numbers it might be made to contain if rebuilt upon the old foundation, and the expense thereof.

Your Committee then proceeded to consider the number of houses, and the amount of the rents; and they found the means and ability of the Parish to have increased in a much larger proportion than the number of Inhabitants, and that, whatever it might be the sense of the parish to do, the expense would be very light: the rental being already more than doubled in the last thirty years, and at this time increasing still more than at any former period.

Your

Your Committee having ascertained the number of families, and likewise the numbers who are accommodated in the several other places of Worship within the Parish, were enabled to come to the following Resolution:—

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that accommodation should be provided for Three Thousand Persons, or upwards, to meet in Publick Worship in the Church of this Parish.

Your Committee then referred it to the Surveyor to make an estimate of the expense of building a Church to contain that number; and from the Report of Mr. Blackburn, who has given great attention to the business, and furnished the Committee with every information that was necessary to enable them to form an opinion of the best mode to recommend to the Parish, they unanimously came to the following Resolutions:

RESOLVED, That it appears to this Committee that the Church in its present state will not contain more than one thousand persons.

RESOLVED, That it appears to this Committee, that the expense of rebuilding the present Church, on the old foundation, will be seven thousand five hundred pounds; and that of providing a temporary accommodation to meet in publick worship during the rebuilding, which it is supposed will be two years, will amount to five hundred pounds; that when rebuilt it will not accommodate more than one thousand seven hundred persons; and that Mr. Blackburn gives it as his decided opinion, that, from the state of the foundation, and the figure of the present Church, it will not be adviseable to build thereon.

RESOLVED, That it appears to this Committee, that no other mode can be recommended to the Parish, adequate to the accommodation wanted, than that of building a new Church.

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that it be recommended to the Inhabitants, to build a Church on a new scite, of sufficient dimensions to accommodate three thousand Persons.

RESOLVED, That it appears to this Committee, that the number of houses in the Parish, rated and unrated, amounts to upwards of one thousand five hundred.

RESOLVED, That it appears to this Committee, that the amount of the rents in this Parish, subject to the Church rate, is thirty-two thousand seven hundred and sixty pounds; and that after making a large allowance for deficiencies in the collection, one penny in the pound will produce net one hundred and twenty-five pounds.

RESOLVED, That it appears to this Committee, that as monies may be raised on annuities, at or under 5l. per cent. the annual interest of fifteen thousand pounds (the sum stated by Mr. Blackburn to be wanted for building the Church, and the purchase of land) will be seven hundred and fifty pounds; and that a church rate of three pence in the pound on the landlord, and three pence in the pound on the tenant, will be fully sufficient to raise that sum.

RESOLVED, That it appears to this Committee, that the Church rate for twenty years, viz. from 1768 to 1787, inclusive, has been, on an average, full three pence halfpenny in the pound, the whole of which has been paid by the tenants.

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that, in conformity to the above Resolutions, it be recommended to the Parishioners to apply to Parliament for an Act, to empower the Inhabitants of this Parish to build a new Church.

Your

Your Committee have only to add, that, from the Resolutions they have stated, and which for the information of the Parish at large they have directed to be printed;—from the plain and urgent necessity of the case;—from the general complaints of the Inhabitants, who have an undoubted right to expect accommodation;—from the great inconveniences to every rank, but more particularly to the poor, who are equally entitled to, and who more peculiarly need the benefits of publick worship and instruction;—from the favourable opportunity of raising money at the present time; from the trifling rate it will be attended with, and that not affecting the poor, or those who rent under ten pounds a year;—they trust that every one who feels the inconvenience in his own case, or wishes to extend so desirable a benefit to his neighbours, will concur with them in opinion, and unite in carrying a plan, so necessary, and so easy to be effected, into execution.

By Order of the Committee,

J. SYMONS, CHAIRMAN.

N. B. Monday the 6th and Tuesday the 7th of April, from 9 o'clock in the forenoon to 11; and from 12 to 6 in the afternoon, are the days appointed for taking the sense of the Parish by ballot (agreeable to the Resolution of the Parish Meeting of the 5th May 1788) upon the Report of the Committee.

The numbers on the Ballot were.

<i>For agreeing with the report of the committee</i>	<i>353.</i>
<i>Against agreeing with the report</i>	<i>70.</i>
<i>Majority for agreeing with the Report</i>	<i>243.</i>

Your Committee have only to add, that from the Regulations they have laid, and which for
 the information of the Parish at large they have directed to be printed;—from the plain and
 unobscured nature of the said Regulations, it is their hope, that every person who has an honest
 right to expect accommodation;—from the great inconveniences to every man, but more particu-
 larly to the poor, who are equally entitled to and who more particularly need the benefit of public
 worship and instruction;—from the opportunity of having money at the present time;
 from the rising rate it will be attended with, and that not affecting the poor, or those who want
 under the present year;—they trust that every one who feels the inconvenience in his own case,
 or wishes to extend to others a benefit to his neighbour, will concur with them in opinion, and
 will be carrying a plan, to necessity, and to ease, into execution.

By Order of the Committee,
 J. SYMONS, CHAIRMAN.

This Report was presented to the Parish Meeting, on the 5th May 1788, and was
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HACKNEY, 1789.
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313
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